

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:
providing user-prescribed categories which were specified by a user;
retrieving a corpus of patent information from a database, wherein the patent information is information from multiple patent documents;
analyzing said patent information to generate a category metric corresponding to user-prescribed categories; and
associating said category metric with said patent information and storing said associated metric in a computer-readable dataset.

12. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein said patent information includes patent classification information and wherein said analyzing step is performed by defining a plurality of categories and mapping classification information onto said categories.

13. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein said patent information includes claim text information to be analyzed and wherein said analyzing step includes:
defining an eigenspace representing a training population of training claims each training claim having associated training text;
representing at least a portion of said training claims in said eigenspace and associating a predefined category with each training claim in said eigenspace; and
projecting the claim text information to be analyzed into said eigenspace and associating with said projected claim text the predefined category of the training claim to which it is closest within the eigenspace.

14. (New) A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:
retrieving patent information from a database, wherein the patent information is from a plurality of patent documents;
analyzing said patent information to generate category metrics; and
associating said category metrics with said patent documents and storing said associated metrics in a computer-readable dataset,
wherein said patent information includes claim text information to be analyzed and wherein said analyzing step includes:
defining an eigenspace representing a training population of training claims each training claim having associated training text;

representing at least a portion of said training claims in said eigenspace and associating a predefined category with each training claim in said eigenspace; and projecting the claim text information to be analyzed into said eigenspace and associating with said projected claim text the predefined category of the training claim to which it is closest within the eigenspace.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said patent information includes patent classification information and wherein said analyzing step is performed by defining a plurality of categories and mapping classification information onto said categories.

16. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said patent information includes using both patent classification information and linguistic analysis results to determine said category metrics to be associated with the patent documents.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the category metrics are indicative of technical areas of the patent documents.

18. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
retrieving text of claims from the database, wherein the text of claims are from the plurality of patent documents;
analyzing the text of the claims in order to generate claim breadth metrics for the claims, wherein a claim breadth metric is indicative of claim breadth of a claim,

wherein the claim breadth metrics are used to analyze the claims.

19. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein values of the category metrics are predetermined.

20. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein values of the category metrics are dynamically determined.